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BEHIND THE SCHUMAN PLAN A MASS MOVEMENT BEGINS IN FRANCE

THE STRUGGLE FOR STEEL LATIN AMERICA RESPONDS

NEW FACTORS IN BURMA

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM TOKYO, WASHINGTON, TORONTO, WELLINGTON,

NAIROBI, COPENHAGEN, STOCKHOLM, LONDON

A senior German Foreign Office official was discussing the Schuman Plan with a British journalist in Bonn some days ago. He said, "Dr. Adenauer and Mr. Schuman have each told me personally that Moral Re-Armament created the soil in which Franco-German unity and our international agreements could grow. Many see the need for this unity now. But Frank Buchman was the only man who not only saw the need but fought effectively for it immediately after the war."

The vital task now is to inspire the masses in France and Germany to implement what the leaders have planned.

Mistrust and hostility towards the plan are being built up in both countries. A French Trade Union leader in the Communist-dominated CGT told a visiting Trade Unionist from Britain recently that point two of

the CGT's three point strategy for 1952 is "the fight against the Schuman Plan."

Mr. Hamilton Kerr, M.P. (Cambridge), writes in the *Spectator*, (1 February, 1952), after visiting France and Germany, "One cannot create a spirit of partnership merely by creating forms of partnership . . . the Schuman Plan will not work unless a new spirit is created among the French and German workers."

"It is for this reason," he adds, "that M. Schuman and Dr. Adenauer, both sincere Christians, have recognised and supported the work of Moral Re-Armament in the French and German industrial area. It has certainly achieved wonders where it has made its influence felt. Setting itself the simple problem 'what is right and not who is right', it has brought management and labour together, and begun to settle feuds between nation and nation."

A MASS MOVEMENT BEGINS IN FRANCE

Moral Re-Armament, which has been operating effectively in the heavy industries of the Ruhr since 1948, is now having a widespread impact on industrial areas of France.

In 1951, French labour-management delegations numbering 1,060 from 80 factories attended the World Assembly at Caux.

Maurice Mercier, fiery National Secretary of the Textile Workers Union of France (FO), a former top Communist who left the Party after the war and became a driving force in the non-Communist Force Ouvrière, recently spoke to 5,000 workers and employers

at a mass meeting in Lille. Mercier said :

"MRA is greater than the Resistance. It is greater than the Popular Front. It is the greatest idea of the twentieth century. True revolutionaries are men who jostle history. If there were 50 employers in France who had a policy based on absolute moral standards it would win the three or four million workers who at the moment vote Communist."

Mercier, the man behind the French industrial delegations at Caux, has found many practical results in his trade union work. With men influenced on

both sides, recent wage negotiations went through in record time, and resulted in a new agreement increasing by 15-16½% the wages of 648,000 textile workers.

Robert Tilge, Secretary General of the Employers' Federation of the North of France, told British industrialists in London last week that the MRA advance has made such strides, "a great change has taken place in relations in industry with the result that in the last four years the number of strikes has drastically decreased."

Mercier, Tilge and other leaders of labour and

management, now have an MRA task force working with them in the North of France. They are holding a series of mass meetings, and have launched ideological training courses in the factories for workers and management.

A director of six companies in France settled 25 lawsuits on his return from Caux, and all his disputes with the tax authorities, on a basis of absolute honesty. A senior tax officer commented, "Similar action throughout industry would permit a tax reduction of 30% to 50% in France."

BRITISH STEEL

The London *Observer* reports (2 February, 1952): "Communist plans to hinder the increasing output of industrial production for rearmament in Western Europe are to be elaborated at a European conference of the Metal and Engineering Workers Trade Union International to be held in Vienna from 12th-15th February . . . They will co-ordinate on a European scale a plan of campaign which by means of strikes, claims for higher wages, longer holidays and the abolition of overtime, is calculated to slow down factory output throughout Western Europe."

In Britain, the Sheffield area produces 14% of the country's raw steel. A million people live and work there. The industries are heavily infiltrated by Communism at all levels. In one key union, twenty out of twenty-seven on the executive follow the Party line. In one nationally known firm six out of ten shop-stewards are Communist. Communism is also strongly entrenched in education, and many young apprentices enter the factories already convinced supporters of the Party.

During the past three years shop-stewards and union officials in many of the firms have received training in Moral Re-Armament at the world assemblies abroad and national gatherings in Britain. As a result long-standing anomalies in the piece rates have been dealt with and friction and discontent reduced. These men have sponsored mass meetings for MRA in

the area. The management of some of the companies have taken similar action.

THE FORGOTTEN FACTOR

On 28 January a Moral Re-Armament force of 150 moved into the steel area of Sheffield and Rotherham with the industrial play *The Forgotten Factor*, which has already been shown to audiences totalling a million in twelve languages in all five continents.

In the first week at Rotherham, 7,000 saw *The Forgotten Factor* in the Regent Theatre. Among them were steel workers, trade union leaders and managers from 31 engineering and steel works including Firth Brown Tools, Hadfields, Steel Peech and Tozer, Darwins, English Steel, Thomas W. Ward, Arthur Lee and Sons, Ambrose Shardlow. BISAFTA, (the British Iron and Steel and Kindred Trades Association) has been strongly represented, and many of its branch secretaries and chairmen feel that MRA will give their union, one of the soundest in the country, the answer to Communist inroads. Bus-loads of workers came every night from Leeds, Bradford and Doncaster. Miners poured in from pits all over the area. The chorus sang for 200 Italian miners. The leading Communist in one large engineering works said, "If this thing grips any tighter here, I am out."

Training and discussion groups and mass meetings are taking place in Sheffield, Rotherham, Bradford, Barnsley and Leeds. Five hundred workers attended the first of a series of meetings in Rotherham.

NEW FACTORS IN BURMA

Burma is on the edge of the Communist world. Thakin Nu and his government have made great progress, but the situation is still not secure. Invasion from

outside could not be stopped by military force. Communist and other insurgent groups hold large areas of the country, and only air communication is possible

with some regions. Oil production is low. Only a fraction of the pre-war output of teak is exported, and rather less than one third of the rice.

Nevertheless, Burma has recovered remarkably quickly. The Administration is functioning, and her varied peoples are formed into a union they increasingly love and respect. The Shans, the Chins, the Kachins, the Mons and the Arakanese, and some Karens, think of themselves more and more as Burmese. The Anglo-Burmese who have remained have been integrated into the life of the country and have proved a valuable and constructive force.

These signs of unity were recently demonstrated by an event in Rangoon which the leading daily, the *Union Gazette*, described as "the greatest spiritual event in recent times."

MEETING AT THE SHWE DAGON PAGODA

This event was an MRA meeting at the famous Shwe Dagon Pagoda, presided over by distinguished

Buddhist Abbots, leaders of Burma's 80,000 monks, and Christian Bishops. The meeting unanimously invited Dr. Buchman to visit Burma this year.

The Ven. Sayadaw U Narada, assistant to the Abbot of the Aletawya monastery where the Prime Minister practises his devotions, initiated the Assembly. He has been studying the application of Moral Re-Armament in Europe and Asia. Recently he gave his family inheritance of rice lands to finance MRA in Burma.

There has been considerable labour unrest recently in the Burmese transport industries. A threatened strike in a section of the Burma railways was solved by the intervention of an MRA-trained group.

The Railway Workers Union, impressed by the practical approach of these men, formed a cast to produce *The Forgotten Factor* in Burmese. Its premiere took place two weeks ago in Rangoon. Many requests are coming in from Government departments and industry for the help of this group.

LATIN AMERICA

Seventeen Latin American countries took part in the MRA Assembly of the Americas in Miami (13-21 January, 1952), which was attended by 1,200 delegates from 35 countries.

The past President of Costa Rica, Don Jose Figueres, a respected democratic leader, said that the Assembly offered our age "a stimulus aroused not by collective fear as in war, but by collective hope in peace."

The Lt. Governor of Curaçao, (Dutch West Indies), which obtained its autonomous constitution a year ago, said, "MRA provides the basis for Curaçao to establish its social and economic life on a secure foundation."

South American labour, on whom the democratic

development of these countries may largely depend was well represented. The President of the Dockers from Santos, Brazil, the port which handles half the world's coffee output, said, "I want to give everything to bring this ideology to my country. We need a new moral backbone for both management and labour."

Brazilian delegates reported that Peter Howard's book *The World Rebuilt* will shortly be published in Portuguese in their country. A force of trained workers has just left for Brazil.

Latin American countries represented included: Venezuela, Guatemala, Peru, Argentina, Costa Rica, Brazil and Ecuador.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tokyo—Our correspondent reports the opening of a permanent centre for MRA training in Japan. *The Forgotten Factor* performed by a Japanese cast has just concluded a series of showings in the Imperial Theatre, Tokyo. Scottish labour journalist, Tom Gillespie, addressed the Conferences of both the Social-Democrat Parties of Japan on World Labour Unity.

Washington—Representatives of Congress, the State Department, Department of Justice, and other government departments, recently held an "International Security Conference" to consult with former Communist leaders from Germany, Italy and Britain, who had attended the Miami Assembly.

Toronto—Tom Keep, past President of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers Union, for twenty-two years a member of the British Communist Party addressed the 2,700 members of the Street Train Workers' Union on How to win Communists, How to supersede the Class War; How to unite East and West.

Wellington—The Mayor of Auckland, Sir John Allum, Chairman of the Auckland Emergency Committee during the five months New Zealand dock strike last year, paid tribute to the "men who have been prominent in helping to bring the solution. The moral courage they have shown has been in large measure due to their interest and belief in Moral Re-Armament."

The men in the new Cargo Workers Union in Wellington are receiving MRA training at the request of their leaders. Their colleagues in Auckland and Dunedin have also come out strongly for these ideas.

London—Sir Douglas Savory, M.P. (South Antrim) told 400 London business men, reports the *Daily Telegraph* (31 January, 1952), that thousands behind the Iron Curtain are being given fresh hope through the spread of Moral Re-Armament.

Copenhagen—At a mass meeting of 5,000 on 3 February, speakers included the Hon. August Sävström, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, Hans Bjerkholt, a founder of the Norwegian Communist Party, Robert Tilge and Maurice Mercier from France (see page 1 above), former Danish Communists, and Fritz Bund, President of the Seamen in the Transport Workers Union for the North Sea Ports of Germany.

Nairobi—Sir Philip Mitchell, Governor of Kenya, heads a multi-racial committee of invitation to *The Forgotten Factor* in East Africa. He attended the opening night in Nairobi at the end of January.

Stockholm—120 Swedish industrialists and business men held a conference on 29-30 January, with representatives from Norway, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany and Britain.

Universities—An MRA task force is visiting seventeen Universities in Western Germany at their invitation. This follows the recent distribution of Peter Howard's book *The World Rebuilt* to the 152,000 students in Western Germany and West Berlin. A report on these visits will be given in an early issue. At a mass meeting of 1,000 in Hanover last weekend the principal speaker was Mr. R. C. Mowat, lecturer in History at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, and author of *Climax of History*.

Shop-Stewards—A conference of shop-stewards from all over Britain took place recently in the Midlands to plan for increased efficiency in industry, and to offset attempts to slow-down production.

Dockers—East London dockers held a packed meeting in Poplar on Sunday, 3 February, chaired by dockers' Branch Secretary, Fred Briden. Speakers included Joseph Sparks, M.P., Labour Member for Acton.

"Father Brown"—Father O'Connor of Bradford, Chesterton's friend who inspired the famous detective stories about "Father Brown", has died. He was for many years a determined protagonist for MRA. He will be mourned and missed by thousands of ordinary men and women who knew and loved him.

The Forgotten Factor—In Finland a film based on *The Forgotten Factor* will be ready in March. In Milan an Italian cast is preparing to put on the play for the workers in the heavy industries of northern Italy. In Britain the play continues its tour of the industrial areas and is now showing in the Hippodrome, St. Helens. Since it was launched at the National Theatre in Washington in 1943, *The Forgotten Factor* has played to a million people in the United States and Canada, in South Africa, in Kenya, in Australia and New Zealand, in Britain, where 100,000 saw it at the Westminster Theatre, in France, Germany and Switzerland, in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. It has been played by a Japanese cast in Tokyo and by a Burmese cast in Rangoon (see above). It has been translated into twelve languages. The *News Chronicle* commented, "This play depicts the industrial phase of the battle between democracy and totalitarianism for the control of the world." The Foreign Minister of New Zealand, Mr. Doidge, speaking at the premiere in his country said, "Here is something more important than the atom bomb."

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FROM MORAL RE-ARMAMENT, FOUR HAYS MEWS, LONDON, W.1.

REVOLUTION ON THE MARCH IN FRANCE

MAURICE MERCIER

*National Secretary, Textile Workers' Union of France
(Force Ouvrière)*

Maurice Mercier, dynamic National Secretary of the French textile workers (F.O.), was first attracted to Moral Re-Armament by the remarkable changes he saw in some of the employers in the textile industry. In 1951 he brought 1,000 delegates from 80 factories to the MRA World Assembly at Caux, Switzerland. He also initiated the mass meeting of 5,000 workers and industrialists at Lille in December, 1951. He has found many practical results of MRA in his trade union work, including the recent negotiation, in record time, of a new wage agreement increasing by 15-16½ per cent the wages of 648,000 textile workers.

MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

ONE PENNY

REVOLUTION ON THE MARCH IN FRANCE

A very few months ago, I put the force of Moral Re-Armament side by side and compared it with the force of Marxism all over the world, and for a few days I had the interesting task of re-reading my history. I went very far back in history. I found that up to 1951 no force based on force and violence ever lasted, and when you understand the Marxist struggle going on in our country and in other countries, you realise that we have to re-think our whole philosophy. The class struggle in 1951 means millions of people against each other, with all the engines of destruction man has invented in these last few years. We must therefore re-think our whole way of living and return to the basic answers to which men should always have looked to improve their conditions and way of life. One day the workers of the world will pay tribute to Frank Buchman for having brought us back to these fundamental truths.

Man carries in himself and his own behaviour the root of the answer. Shop stewards and union secretaries who apply the four standards inevitably take the lead, and when employers apply these moral standards, the day of strikes and tommy-guns is past.

Moral Re-Armament is something quite simple. It is a question of will, daring and sacrifice. It means carrying out a revolution in one's own heart and life, or suffering the revolution that means atomic bombs. That is the problem that is before the people of our age.

In France today people in key positions understand very well that they have got to change quickly, if they are not going to be changed by force. I would like to tell you of the great hope I have of a peaceful and courageous revolution taking place in France in the near future. I know employers who have been to Caux and are applying

these four absolute moral standards. There are no more problems between workers and employers there. There is no more hatred or class warfare, because the workers know everything and share everything with the employer.

Just recently I have seen extremely powerful employers who, if they changed, would certainly bring about a revolution in France. Among all ranks of the employers of France there is room for this coming revolution. This experiment which we call productivity can bring an important improvement in the lives of the workers. It is quite possible to increase wages and lower prices. That is the revolution which Moral Re-Armament has brought into industry.

We have seen the farmers too. There are great farming families who have been to Caux. They tell us that it is quite possible to bring down the prices of butter and wheat. We know farms which are run by men in Moral Re-Armament where there is no more hatred, and where the workers after several years are able to buy their own farms. These give a decisive lead to our country. Industrialists, workers and farmers are ready to take steps to save our country and ensure that even the poorest can live without distress.

We know that there are men from both Houses of Parliament and in the Ministries who are also seeking a new day. We have seen members of Parliament—both de Gaullists and Socialists—who are ready to come to an understanding together on the basis of absolute honesty. So revolution is on the march in France among industrialists, workers, farmers and even among the politicians, who have brought us to despair in recent years. This will be the great fulfilment of Moral Re-Armament, the force which will have brought these men together and directed their thinking along the same lines.

Not a cry of hatred, not an hour of work lost, not a drop of blood shed—this is the revolution of joy and love to which Moral Re-Armament calls you. The French workers will live through this experience, and French employers

too, when they look back, will rejoice to have had a part in bringing it about.

Moral Re-Armament offers you the possibility, wherever you are and whatever responsibilities you hold, to apply a revolutionary answer. The force of trade unionism rests in the quality of its militants and Moral Re-Armament reinforces the values of these militants. I would like to see every shop steward and union secretary apply the basic principles of Moral Re-Armament. Then we would see the unity longed for by so many.

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